ORIES OF THE BIG LEAGUERS BY CHRISTY MATHEWSON.

Coaching Good and Bad-How McGraw Learned the Value of Scientific Work on the Coaching Line-The Crowd's Part in this Phase of the Came.

Critical moments occur in every close ball see the ball, "replied Seymour.

"You'd better wear smoked glasses the game at which coaching may win or lose it. "That wasn't the stage for you to try next time you go out to coach," replied to score," yelled John McGraw, the manager of the Giants, at Josh Devore as ball due east, and the game was being the New York leftfielder attempted to played in the afternoon so that Seymour count from second base on a short hit had no alibi. From the moment Cy made to left field with no one out and the team that mistake McGraw realized the value one run behind in a game with the Pirates of scientific coaching, which means makone day last season when every contest ing the most of every hit in a game. might mean the winning or losing of the

First time in my life I was ever thrown with a knowledge of baseball and besides the coacher sent me in." I don't care," replied McGraw, "that was a two out play.

As a matter of fact one of the younger hird base at the time that this play came p and made an error of judgment in ending Devore home of which an older ead would not have been guilty. And the Pirates beat us by just that one run the coacher sacrificed. The next batter ame through with an outfield fly which

ase easily. Probably no more wily general ever ase than John McGraw. His judgment score is almost uncanny. Governed by ball to-day. a list of regulations for his players which urriculum." He has favorite expressions, such as "there are stages" and that was a two out play," which mean certain chances are to be taken by a coacher at one point in a contest where to attempt such a play under other cirmstances would be nothing short of oolhardy.

COACHING NOW AN EXACT SCIENCE. eaching has advanced until it is now an runs mage that was a disgrace to a ball field. hen they weren't busy with this part runners as to where the ball was and whether the second baseman was conealing it under his shirt, a favorite trick of the old days, while the pitcher pretended to prepare to deliver it. But as rales were made which strictly forbade ne use of indecent language to a pitcher. and as the old school of clowns passed, coaching developed into a science, and sentries stationed at first and third ases found themselves occupying imortant jobs.

For some time McGraw frowned down ipon scientific coaching until its value was forcibly brought home to him one lay by an incident that occurred at the olo Grounds, and since then he has decloped it until the knowledge of advising ase runners is the pinnacle of scientific

eft fielder, who used a big bat and could McCormick came to the plate and knocked the ball to the old centre field ropes. He came speeding around the bases, and when he reached third it looked as if he ould roll home shead of the ball. Cv seymour was coaching, and he surprised seymour was coaching, and he surprised way of comic supplement players a terrible battle for the honors. McCormick, throwing him down and try-ing to force him back to third base. But scrambled to his feet and finally scored after overcoming the obstacle that Sey-

mour made. That run won the game.
"What was the matter with you, Cy?" asked McGraw as Seymour came to the football game. ench after he had almost lost the game by his poor coaching.

THE COACHER AND THE CROWD. I have always held that a good actor would nut trying to score from second on a base make a good coacher because it is the hit to the outfield," answered Devore. acting that impresses a base runner, not she talking. More often than not the conversation of a coacher, be it ever so brilliant, is not audible above the screeching of the crowd at critical moments. players on the team was coaching at And I believe that McGraw is a great

actor, at least of the baseball school. The cheering of the immense crowds which attend ball games if it can be organized is a potent factor in winning or losing them. McGraw gets the most out of a throng by his clever acting. Did of the moment to make a foolish play. any patron of the Polo Grounds ever see This style has developed largely in the would have scored Devore from third him turn to the stands or make any pretence that he was paying attention the spectators? Does he ever play to the rouched on the coaching line at third gallery? Yet it is admitted that he can do more with a crowd, make it more in holding runners or urging them on to malleable than any other man in base-

a lot of difference to a ball club. A lack- he must be familiar with the speed of the into the men and put the whole club on at which to try a certain play and the pitcher constantly in the "hole" instead its toes. McGraw is skilled in getting the most out of the spectators without letting them know that he is doing it. Did you ever watch the little manager

crouching immovable at third base with a mitt on his hand when the New York With the development of baseball club goes to bat in the seventh inning two behind? The first hitter gets a base steal. xact science. For many years the two jop balls. McGraw leaps into the air, kicks men who stood at first and third bases his heels together, claps his mitt, shouts are merely stationed there to bullyrag at the umpire, runs in and pats the next and abuse the pitchers, often using lan- batter on the back, and says something to the pitcher. The crowd gets its cue, wakes up and leaps into the air, kicking nings shricks his famous war cry it has their art they handed helpful hints to its heels together. The whole atmosphere inside the park is changed in minute and the is air bristling with enthusiesm. The other coacher, at first base, is waving his hands and running up and down the line, while the men on the bench have apparently gained new hope. They moving about restlessly, and the two next hitters are swinging their bats in anticipation with a vigor which augurs ill for the pitcher. The game has found Ponce de Leon's fountain of youth, and the little, silent actor on the third base coaching line is the cause of the change.

Nick Altrock, the old pitcher on the Chicago White Sox, was one of the most skilful men at handling a crowd that the game has ever developed. As a pitcher Altrock was largely instrumental in bringing a world's championship to the American League team in 1906, and A few years ago there was a player on as a coacher after his big league pitching days were nearly done he won many a game by his work on the lines in pinches. hat the ball far. One day the Giants were Baseball has brought out many comedians. the few games from which he was absent. some with questionable ratings as humor-

sts. There is Germany Schaefer of the Washington team, and there were Rube Waddell, Bugs Raymond and others, but Nick Altrock could give the best that the game has produced in the

At the old South Side park in Chicago I have seen him go to the lines with a ig McCormick got the best of the struggle. catcher's mitt and a first baseman's glove on his hands, and lead the untrained mob as skilfully as one of those pompadoured young men with a megaphone does the undergraduates at a college

My experience as a pitcher has been

ing. It becomes a part of the game and riable answer to him is: his surroundings as much as the stands and the crowd itself are, and he doesn't know that it is there. Let the coacher be clever enough to induce a crowd to McGraw would not let either Josh De opyright, 1912, by Christy Matheuson.) | "The sun got in my eyes and I couldn't repeat over and over just one sentence such as "Get a hit," "Get a hit," and it he could get the crowd to do this at the right moment

THE THREE PARTS OF COACHING

But the science of latter day coaching means much more than using the crowd. All coahing, like all Gaul and three or four other things, is divided into three parts, defensive coaching, offensive coachcoaching means the handling of base runners and requires quick and accurate judgment. The defensive sort is the adanother as to where to throw the ball, which might be called the illegitimate

big leagues in the last few years. Offensive coaching, in my opinion, good coacher he must be trained for the work. The best coachers are the seasoned players, the veterans of the game. A man must know the throwing ability The attitude of the spectators makes of each outfielder on the opposing club. circumstances under which the same attempt would be foolish. Above all things he must be a quick thinker.

Watch McGraw on the coaching lines some day. As he crouches he picks up a pebble and throws it out of his way and two base runners start a double steal. Hughie Jennings emits his famous "Ee-Yaah!" and the third baseman creeps in, expecting Cobb to bunt with a man on first base and no one out. The hitter pushes the ball on a line past the third baseman. The next time Jena different intonation, and the batter

Bill runner starts while the batter smashes the pitcher hears that "Watch his foot." "wastes one" so that the batter won't get a chance at the ball and turns to first

Last season the Giants led the National base running League by a good margin in stealing bases, and to this speed many critics attributed the fact that the championship was won by the club. I can safely say that every base which was pilfered Then his lieutenants followed his system as closely as any one can pursue that involved and intricate style which he alone understands. If it was the base running of the Giants that won the pennant for the club, then it was the coaching of McGraw, employing the speed of his men and his opportunities, which brought the championship to New York.

PLAYERS TAUGHT TO OBEY COACHES lutely the orders of the coacher, and or doesn't drop dead. then he selects able men to give the advice. The brain of McGraw is behind base in a game with Boston ast summer every game that the Giants play, and he and the Giants had a comfortable lead

sant pounding of feet that gets on the tions from him as to what to try to do. nerves of a ball player, but the broken, In order to make this system efficient this usual intensity of purpose, rounded at his fine appearance in Cincinnati that this coaching saved many 2 game for the stant reiteration of one expression. A a player has other ideas than McGraw The ball was already on the way home several men on the bases and Mike the former shortstop, was of the same man gets accustomed to the steady cheer- as to what should be done Mac's inva-"You do what I tell you and I'll take the

responsibility if we lose. For two months at the end of last season

vore or John Murray, the New York right fielder, swing at a first ball pitched to them. wears on the steadiest nerves. Nick Murray did this one day after he had been Altrock had his baseball chorus trained ordered not to, and he was promptly fined so that by a certain motion of the arm \$10 and set down on the bench while Becker played right field. Many fans doubtless recall the substitution of Becker but could not understand the move. Murray and Devore are what are known

in baseball as "first ball hitters." That is, they invariably nit at the first one delivered. They wetch a pitcher wind up and swing their bats involuntarily, as a man blinks his eyes when he sees a blow ing and the use of the crowd. Offensive started. It is probably due to slight nervousness. The result was that the new of this weakness spread rapidly around the circuit by the underground routes of vice that one player on the field gives baseball and every pitcher in the league was handing Devore and Murray a bad who shall take a hit and how the base ball on the first one. Of course, each runner is coming into the bag. There is would miss it or else make a dinky little subdivision of defensive coaching nit. They were always "in the hole." wnica means that the pitcher had the brand. It is giving phoney advice to a advantage in the count. McGraw bea bad start hitting at the first ball

"After this," said McGraw to both Murray and Devore in the clubhouse, "if is either of you moves als bat off his shoulder the most important. For a man to be a at a first ball, even if it cuts the plate, you will be fined \$10 and set down."

Murray forgot the next day, saw the pitcher wind up, and swung nis bat at the first one. He spent the rest of the month on the bench. But Devore's hitting imof being at a disadvantage himself. For this reason he was able to guess more accurately what the pitcher was going to talking to pitchers, but if a complaint throw, and his hitting consequently improved. So did Murray's after he had served his term on the bench.

The right fielder hit well up to the world's series and then he just struck a slump the batter and the base runner. that any player is liable to encounter. Griffith caught a Tertar in Grover But so dependent is McGraw's system or absolute discipline for its success that he dispensed with the services of a good player for a month to preserve his style.

In contrast Connie Mack, the manager of the Athletics, and by many declared to be the greatest leader in the Dahlen of the Brooklyn club country, although each private, of course, shouts "Watch his foot," and the base is true to his own general, lets his players use their own judgment largely. He the ball on a hit and run play. Again seldom gives a batter a direct order unless the pinch is very stringent.

The most difficult position to fill as a coacher is at third base, the critical corper. base. He is surprised to find the runner There a man's judgment must be lightning Nothing has happened. fast and always accurate. He encourages So it will be seen that the offensive coacher runners with his voice, but his orders controls the situation and directs the are given primarily with his hands because plays, usually taking his orders from the often the noise made by the crowd drowns manager if the boss himself is not on the out the shouted instructions. Last, he must be prepared to handle all sorts of THE "HOG WILD RUNNER.

On nearly every ball club there are some players who are known in the frank parlance of the profession as "hog wild

The expression means that these players are bitten by a sort of "bug" which causes them to lose their heads when once they get on the bases. They can't be stopped. oftentimes fighting with a coacher to go on to the next base when it is easy to see that if the attempt is made the runner is doomed.

New York fans have often seen Mo-Graw dash out into the line at third base. tackle Murray and throw him back on the bag. He is a "hog wild runner." and with him on the bases the duties of The first thing that every manager a coacher become more arduous. He teaches his players now is to obey abso- will insist on scoring if he isn't stopped Some youngster was coaching on third

that it isn't the steady, unbroken flood plans every move, most of the hitters of several runs. Murray was on second

when Murray, about ten feet from the bag, tripped and fell. He scrambled safely back to the cushion on all fours. There was nothing else to do. "This is his third year with me," laughed

McGraw on the bench, "and that's the first time he has ever failed to try to score from second on a hit unless he was tackled." All ball clubs have certain "must" motions which are as strictly observed as dansignals on a railroad. A coacher's

hand upraised will stop a base runner as abruptly as the uplifted white glove of a traffic policeman halts a row of automobiles. A wave of the arm will set a runner going again at top speed.

Many times a quick witted ball player wins a game for his club by his snap

judgment. Again McGraw is the master of that. He took a game from the Cubs last season because, always alert for flaws in the opposition, he noticed the centre fielder drop his arm after getting warned to fight shy of the Pittsburg set to throw the ball home. Devore was to win the game. Doyle hit sharply to tween innings, chatting on trivial matcentre field and Devore, coming from econd, started to slow up as he rounded third. Hofman, the Chicago centre fielder, perceiving this slackening of his pace, dropped his arm. McGraw noticed this, and, with a wave of his arm, notified came exasperated after Devore had Devore to go home. With two strides he fanned out three times one day by getting was at top speed again, and Hofman, taken by surprise, threw badly.

The run scored, and won the game. PASTIME THAT HAS LOST ITS POPULARITY The pastime of bullyragging the pitcher by the coachers has lost its popularity recently. The wily coacher must first judge the temperament of a pitcher be fore he dares to undertake to get on his nerves. Clarke Griffith, formerly the a lot of difference to a ban club. A lackmight be called the "McGraw Coaching adaistical, half interested crowd often base runner whom he is handling and he expecting him to swing at the first one. I proved at once because all the proved at once again he has forced youngsters back to the minors by his constant cry of "Watch his foot" or "He's going to waste this one.

> The rules are very strict now about is made Griffith declares that he was warning the batter that it was to be a pitch out, which is perfectly legitimate. The rules permit the coacher to talk to

to left field. Murray started, and, with pitcher of the Philadelphia club. It was the play, and he gave this helpful advice the young fellow got into the hole with Giants in the old days. Al Bridwell Mitchell coming up to the bat.

the yellow," yelled Grifith at Alexander. The young pitcher walked over toward voice, shouting: third base

"I'm going to make that big boob up at the bat there show such a yellow streak that you won't be able to see any white," Mitchell out. Griffith had tried the

wrong tactics.
A story is told of Fred Clarke and Rube attention on his work, but his mind wan-

"Now pay pay no attention to Clarke," warned his manager before the game.

Clarke tried everything from cajolery to abuse on Waddell with no effect because the eccentric rube had been to throw the ball home. Devore was manager. Suddenly Clarke became second base and one run was needed friendly and walked with Waddell beters. At last he said:

Why don't you come out on my ranch in Kansas and hunt after the season. George? I've got a dog out there you might train.

"What kind of a dog?" asked Waddell,

he was one of those aggressive players

several men on the bases and Mike the former shortstop, was of the same type, and if you have ever attended a "Now, here is where we get a look at ball game at the Polo Grounds you have be vellow," velled Griffith at Alexander.

"I've got it! I've got it!" or, "You take it!"

This style of coaching saves ball players from accidents, and accidents have lost declared Alexander, and then he struck many a pennant. I have always held that it was a lack of the proper coaching that sent Cy Seymour, formerly the Giant centre fielder, out of the big leagues Waddell, the eccentric twirler. Waddell and back to the minors. Both Murray was once one of the best pitchers in the and he attempted to catch the same fly business when he could concentrate his in the season of 1909 and came into collision. Seymour went down on the field, but later got up and played the game out However, he hurt his leg so badly that it

never regained its strength. Then there is that other style of defensive coaching which is the shouting of misleading advice by the fielders to the base runners. Collins and Barry, the econd baseman and shortstop on the Athletics, worked a elever trick in one of the games of the recent world's series which illustrates my point. The play is as old as the one in which the second baseman hides the ball under his shirt so as to catch a man asleep off first base but often the old ones are the more ef-

"What kind of a dog?" asked Waddell, at once interested.

"Just a pup." replied Clarke, "and you can have him if he takes a fancy to you."

"They all do," replied Waddell. "He's as good as mine."

The next inning the big left hander was still thinking of that dog, and the Pirates made five runs.

INSTANCES OF GOOD DEFENSIVE COACHING.

In many instances defensive coaching is as important as the offensive brand, which simply inderses the old axiom that any chain is only as strong as its weakest link, or any ball club is only as efficient as its most deficient department. When Roger Bresnahan was on the Giants he was one of those aggressive players who are always coaching the other field.

In many instances defensive coaching is as important as the offensive brand, which simply inderses the old axiom that any chain is only as strong as its weakest link, or any ball club is only as efficient as its most deficient department. When Roger Bresnahan was on the Giants he was one of those aggressive players who are always coaching the other field.

Johnnie Kling, the old catcher of the contents to short foul five to Baker, playing third base in one of the contests played in Philadelphia, and the batter lifted a short foul fly to Baker, playing third base. The crowd roared and the coacher's voice was drowned by the volume of sound. Eddie Collins ran to cover second base and Barry scrab-led his hand along the dirt as if preparing to field a ground ball.

"Throw it here! Throw it here!" yelled Collins, and Doyle, thinking that they were trying for a force play, redoubled his flay and Larry was doubled up at first base in one of the con-tests played in Philadelphia, and the batter lifted a short foul fly to Baker, played in Philadelphia, and the batter lifted a short foul fly to Baker, played in Philadelphia, and the batter lifted a short foul fly to Baker, played in Philadelphia, and the batter lifted a short foul fly to Baker, played in Philadelphia, and the batter lifted a short foul fly to Baker, played in Philadelphia, ceed.
Johnnie Kling, the old catcher of the

who are always coaching the other fielders and holding a team together, a type much desired by a manager. If a slow toller was hit between the pitcher's box and third base. I could always hear Rog yelling. "You take it, Matty." or, "Artie, Artie!" meaning Devlin, the third baseman. He was in a position to see When the busher was found taking a large lead Evers would dash to the bag and Kling would make a bluff to throw the ball, but hold it. The runner naturally scampered for the base. Then, seeing that Kling had not thrown, he would start to walk away from it again "If the Jew had thrown that time, he would have had you." Evers would hurl over his shoulder at the intended victim carelessly. The man usually turned for a fatal second to reply. Tinker, who was playing shortstop, rushed in from behind, Kling whistled the ball to the bag, and the man, caught off his guard, was tagged out. The play was really made before the game, when the victim was selected.

A COMBINATION HARD TO BEAT.

It was this same Evers-Kling combination that turned the tide in the first inning of the most famous game ever played in baseball, the extra one between the Giants and the Cubs in the season of 1803. The Chicago club was nervous in the first inning. Tenney was hit by a pitched ball, and Herzog walked. It looked as if Pfiester, the Chicago pitcher, was losing his grip. Bresnahan struck out, and Kling, always alert, dropped the third strike, but conveniently at his feet. Thinking that here was an opportunity, the crowd reared. Evers, playing deep, almost behind Herzog, shouted, "Go on!" A COMBINATION HARD TO BEAT.

Herzog took the bait in the excitement of the moment and ran—audwas nipped many yards from first base. That made two out, and Pfiester had a chance to steady up in the resultant hull.

steady up in the resultant lull.

There are many tricks to the coacher's trade, both offensive and defensive, and it is the fastest witted man who is the best coacher. The sentry at first yells as the pitcher winds up, "There he goos!" imitating the first baseman as nearly as possible in the hope that the twirler will waste one by pitching out and thus give the batter an advantage. The coacher on third base will shout at the runner on a short hit to the outfield, "Take your turn," in the dim hope that the fielder, seeing the man rounding third, will throw the ball home, and the hitter can thus make an extra base. And the job of coaching is no sinecure. McGraw has told me after directing a hard game that he is as tired as if he had played.



JOHN J. M'GRAW.

FOREIGN ATHLETES
OUR MEN WILL MEET

Australian Championships Uncarried Some Cracks for Stockholm.

**THLETIC FRICTION IN WEST

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Who Will Pay Against SemiProfessionals.**

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FOR SEASON'S GRIND

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his share of success in beating the Crim son.

James O. Rodgers, 28, who has succeeded Kennedy as coach of the Eli crews, is heading a new system of graduate coaching, which is expected to overcome Harvard's recent successes. Rodgers apparently is casting out, without reserve, everything that kennedy worked up in the last ten years, and cowing at Yale is now on practically the same basis as when the veteral Bob Cook gave up an active voice in the direction of the Yale crews. Rodgers has gone back almost altogether to the tenry whose slip is close by Wisconsin. For the almost continuous waves from the terry whose slip is close by Wisconsin. For the almost continuous waves from the terry whose slip is close by Wisconsin. For the almost continuous waves from the terry whose slip is close by Wisconsin. For the almost continuous waves from the terry whose slip is close by Wisconsin. For the almost continuous waves from the terry whose slip is close by Wisconsin. For the other present plans intend to programme. For nell will have quarters, and it is and Wisconsin will be at Highland.